

Double House
Pig Alley Block Study
406-408 Hurt Street
Petersburg
Virginia

HABS
VA
27-PET,
23 D-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

PLG ALLEY BLOCK STUDY:

406-408 HURT STREET

HABS
VA
27-PET,
23D-

Location: 406-408 Hurt Street, Petersburg, Virginia

Present Owner: Mrs. Winifred S. Mann Harrison, P. O. Box 296,
Greenville, North Carolina

Present Occupant: Pauline Chavis & Family (406)
Jane Lewis Williams & Family (408)

Present Use: Two Private Residences

Statement of Significance: This building, probably constructed c. 1835, is a double worker's tenement in a village complex of workers houses. The complex was built for workers in the many flour and cotton mills which were located 500 feet north along the Appomattox River. This building is interesting since its form is a derivation of similar forms which were used in Colonial houses in Tidewater.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: c. 1835.
2. Architect: Unknown.
3. Original and subsequent owners: A chain of title for the building follows. Deed and Will Books are in the Clerk's Office of Hustings at Petersburg.

1841 Deed June 22, 1841 recorded in
Book 14 page 78
Robert M. Haxall, ex.
Richard Barton, ex.
Haxall William
to
William Shaw

1843 Deed October 10, 1843 recorded in
Book 14 page 86
William Shaw
to
William Johnson

1846 December 6, 1846 recorded in
Book 16 page 127
William Johnson
Mary Johnson

- to
Benjamin Jones
- 1857 Deed April 4, 1857 recorded in
Book 23 page 580
Robert Y. Jones, ex.
Benjamin Jones
to
Robert Cousins
- 1859 Deed June 24, 1859 recorded in
Book 25 page 52
Robert Cousins
to
James M. Donnan, tr.
Alexander Donnan
Gregg Wesley
- 1862 Deed ~~October 30~~, 1862 recorded in
Book 27 page 155
Robert Cousins, tr.
James M. Donnan, tr.
to
John B. Carey, tr.
Virginia A. C. Williams
Missouri A. C. Williams
John S. C. Williams
- 1879 Deed December 10, 1879 recorded in
Book 40 page 432
Edward Whyte, sub. tr.
S. B. Tatum
Virginia A. C. Tatum
to
John L. Williams
- 1881 Deed July 19, 1881 recorded in
Book 42 page 178
J. Williams, tr.
James M. B. Stewart, tr.
to
Charles A. Jackson
- 1894 Deed July 11, 1894 recorded in
Book 57 page 394
Josephine A. T. C. Jackson
Montgomery C. Jackson
(one-half share of property)
to
John Jackson
- 1901 Deed June 12, 1901 recorded in
Book 64 page 360

Josephine A. T. C. Jackson
Montgomery C. Jackson
Isabelle B. Jackson
(one-half share of property)
to
Annie P. Jackson
Eleanor A. Jackson
M. Willes Causey

1901 Deed June 14, 1901 recorded in
Book 64 page 375
Annie P. Jackson
Eleanor A. Jackson
W. W. J. Causey
Francis Causey
to
J. D. Mann

1907 Deed March 7, 1907 recorded in
Book 143 page 121
Joseph D. Mann
to
Maggie M. Mann

1943 Deed March 17, 1943 recorded in
Will Book 11 page 19
Maggie M. Mann
to
Winifred S. Mann Harrison

4. Original plans and construction: Unknown.
5. Alterations and additions: Unknown.

Prepared by Randall J. Biallas
University of Illinois, Urbana
August 1968

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This is a colonial-type building of the 1830's. It is located in part of the original city and was probably a part of cluster housing for early industry in the area.
2. Condition of fabric: The building is in fair condition.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: The building is rectangular with a small rear addition. Approximately 36' x 26' total (divided into two living units (approximately 18' x 26')). One and a half stories, no basement. Covered porch in front.
 2. Foundations: Brick building elevated 6" above grade on south side, 2' above on north.
 3. Wall construction: Wood, heavy timber construction, original wood siding replaced. Building painted white.
 4. Chimneys: There are two brick chimneys. A large chimney in the center of the house serves both living units. A small chimney in rear, added later, is plastered over.
 5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: There are four exterior doors (two each unit). None are original.
 - b. Windows and shutters: There are two windows in front, double-hung with 6 lights each sash. Three small windows each side. None appear to be original.
 6. Porches: A covered front porch runs almost the entire length of the facade. Porch is elevated about 2-1/2' off ground and roof is supported by five rectangular wood pillars.
 7. Structural system: Structure and roof jointage at walls were inaccessible due to wall and ceiling finishes.
 8. Roof shape and covering: There is a gabled roof with a lean-to extension at rear. The porch roof is hipped. Roof covering is tin with ribs 18" to 24" o.c., varying.
 9. Dormers: There are two in front, one each unit.
- C. Description of Interior:
1. Floor plans, general: The house is rectangular and divided (symmetrically) into two living units, one on each side of fireplace. Plan description is for one unit only (one to left, facing building).
 2. First floor: There are two rooms plus access to small bath addition at rear. Front room (living area). Attic floor--one room.
 3. Stairways: There is one enclosed stairway to the left side of the rear room. It leads to the attic along exterior wall.
 4. Flooring: Wood plank flooring, with linoleum covering over part of first floor.

5. Wall and ceiling finish: There is painted plaster wall finish in all rooms. Some have wallpaper. All rooms have painted plaster ceilings.
6. Doorways and doors: There are two interior doors in each unit. All are on the first floor. One connects front and rear rooms, the other leads to the bath.
7. Notable hardware: None.
8. Details and trim: None significant.
9. Lighting: Modern.
10. Heating: Oil stoves vented through fireplace flues.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The building faces east along Hurt Street on slightly sloping land. Clustered around are row houses of the same general character.
2. Outbuildings: None.
3. Landscaping: Sparse ground cover; no enclosures, no walks.

Prepared by John M. McRae
Project Supervisor
Historic American
Buildings Survey
July 1968

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

These records are part of the documentation made during the 1968 Petersburg Project, undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey in cooperation with The Historic Petersburg Foundation, Inc., with financial assistance from The Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission. During the summer, records were made of twenty-two buildings in the city.

The project was under the general direction of James C. Massey, Chief, Historic American Buildings Survey. Project Supervisor was John M. McRae of the University of Florida. The recording team was composed of Randall J. Biallas, historian (University of Illinois, Urbana), and student assistant architects Michael Hamilton (University of Arizona), Thomas J. Sanford (Washington State University), and Edwin S. Smith, Jr. (Rhode Island School of Design). Photographs were made by George Eisenman.